

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CU-04 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01 AID-20

RSR-01 /108 W

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R 092031Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5042

INFO USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UY

SUBJ: DEMOCRATIC FRONT, UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION AND  
PRESIDENT SPEAK UP

CINCSO FOR POLAD

REF: MVD 2446

1. THE DEMOCRATIC FRONT, A COALITION OF MODERATE OPPONENTS OF THE ADMINISTRATION DRAWN FROM TRADITIONAL BLANCO AND COLORADO PARTY FACTIONS, RELEASED TODAY (AUGUST 9) A PROCLAMATION CALLING FOR "A RETURN IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME TO AN INSTITUTIONAL NORMALITY THAT WOULD ASSURE THAT THE DESTINY OF THE NATION WAS DIRECTED BY POPULAR AND FREELY EXPRESSED OPINION". PROCLAMATION ASKED ALL GROUPS "NOT ALIGNED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY WITH MARXIST-LENINISM OR FASCISM" TO ADHERE TO THE GROUP'S OBJECTIVE OF A COMPLETE RETURN TO "CONSTITUTIONALITY." DECLARATION WAS SIGNED BY SOME 110 PROMINENT URUGUAYANS, INCLUDING COLORADO PARTY LEADERS JORGE BATLLE (LIST 15), JOSE LORENZO BATLLE CHERVIERE (DIRECTOR OF NEWSPAPER EL DIA AND LEADER OF LIST 14), AMILCAR VASCONCELLOS (LIST 315), AND BLANCO PARTY LEADERS WASHINGTON BELTRAN (NATIONAL BLANCO UNION), MARIO HEBER (HERRERA-HEBER) AND DARDO ORTIZ (ONE OF TWO SUPPORTERS OF WILSON FERREIRA ALDUNATE TO SIGN  
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DECLARATION). SIGNERS ALSO INCLUDED NUMBER OF PRESITGOUS POLITICAL

INDEPENDENTS. DECLARATION NOTED THAT EACH SIGNER "CONSERVES HIS POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE, WHETHER IT BE PERSONAL OR IN HIS RESPECTIVE PARTY OR MOVEMENT". COMPLETE TEXT OF DEMOCRATIC FRONT DECLARATION BEING FORWARDED TO ARA/APU.

2. DELEGATION FROM UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION (HEADED BY PRESIDENTS OF ARCHITECTURE, ACCOUNTING, NOTARY, ENGINEERING, MEDICAL AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES SOCIETIES) CALLED ON PRESIDENT BORDABERRY AUGUST 8 TO PRESENT THEIR OWN DECLARATION "REAFFIRMING THE NECESSITY OF ENFORCING THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC."

3. BORDABERRY, IN REPLY TO UNIVERSITY DECLARATION, ISSUED LENGTHY STATEMENT DEFENDING HIS ACTIONS AS PRESERVING THE NATION AND ITS INSTITUTIONS FROM "ENEMIES OF THE COUNTRY." THE PRESIDENT ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT TIME HAD COME "TO CONSTRUCT".

4. COMMENT. DECLARATION OF DEMOCRATIC FRONT HAD LONG BEEN EXPECTED (SEE MVD 2362) AND THERE WAS LITTLE IN THE WAY OF SURPRISE EITHER IN MODERATE TONE OF DECLARATION OR GROUPS OFFICIALLY ASSOCIATED WITH IT. BLANCO POLITICIAN TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS TODAY THAT DECLARATION'S RELEASE WAS DELAYED 15 DAYS BECAUSE ORGANIZERS WANTED IT TO BE RELEASED IN NAME OF SIGNERS' POLITICAL FACTIONS. THIS WAS ABANDONED HOWEVER BECAUSE OF DESIRE TO RETAIN SUPPORT OF INDEPENDENTS AND FERREIRA ALLIES. WE NOTE ALSO THAT NEITHER BELTRAN NOR HEBER WERE ABLE TO INDUCE LARGE NUMBERS OF THEIR POLITICAL SUPPORTERS TO CO-SIGN THE PRONOUNCEMENT AND THAT SOME LIST 15 POLITICIANS DID NOT SIGN. ABSENCE OF THESE NAMES IN PART RESULT OF UNWILLINGNESS TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH WHAT IS CONSIDERED TO BE "TOO MODERATE" NATURE OF PRONOUNCEMENT. BUT MANY OTHER POLITICIANS APPARENTLY WERE UNWILLING AT THIS TIME TO PUBLICLY COMMIT THEMSELVES EITHER FOR OR AGAINST THE ADMINISTRATION AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE MILITARY HAS INCREASED POLITICAL

ROLE. EVEN THEN LIST OF SIGNATURES IS A PRESTIGIOUS ONE CONTAINING MANY OF THE SAME "OLD FAMILY" NAMES THAT BORDABERRY HAD HOPED TO ATTRACT TO HIS NEW COUNCIL OF STATE.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** MVD 2446  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <24-Jan-2002 by willialc>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEMOCRATIC FRONT, UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION AND PRESIDENT SPEAK UP  
**TAGS:** PINT, UY  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005